

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 18 -25 are pending. By this Response, claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are amended and claim 17 is cancelled.

Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Election/Restriction

The Office Action constructively restricts claim 17 as being directed to a non-elected invention. Applicant has cancelled claim 17 from the application. Thus, the restriction of claim 17 is now moot.

35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

The Office action rejects claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that “there is no disclosure in the original specification of printing means separately dedicated for automatic or manual printing.” Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant directs the Examiner’s attention to page 7, lines 7-13 which discloses”:

“A plurality of printing means may exist. In this case, printing means dedicated to automatic printing and manual printing are used. In the case where the print has been judged to be the target of automatic printing, printing means dedicated to automatic printing carries out printing. On the other hand, printing is carried out by the printing means dedicated to manual

printing in the case where the print has been judged to be the target of manual printing.”

At least by this paragraph of the specification, dedication of two separate printing means, i.e. automatic printing and manual printing is disclosed. Thus, the specification does comply with the written description requirement under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the limitation “printing means dedicated to automatic printing” and “the printing means dedicated to manual printing” lacks sufficient antecedent basis. In response, applicant has amended claims 18 and 19 to correct the antecedent basis. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Brief Summary of the Embodiments of the Invention

In embodiments of the present invention, a printing control method and apparatus are disclosed in which two separate printing means, one of automatic printing and one for manual printing can be used. A selection of

automatic printing or manual printing is determined based on information regarding the printed output. The automatic printing determines based on the order information that a confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is not necessary. A manual printing determines based on the order information that the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is necessary. Thus, the system can filter out those print orders based on order information limiting the necessity for an operator to confirm the content of the order and thereby increase the output and productivity of prints.

Prior Art Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1-16 and 18-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ban (US 6,332,170). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ban teaches a printing method in which an ordinary print job can be distinguished from each other. The ordinary print job obtains paper from the automatic paper feed whereas a special print job obtains paper from the manual paper feed in a printer. The system of Ban controls the printer such that all ordinary print jobs in the cue are scheduled together and all special print jobs are scheduled together. Therefore, the printer prints in a more efficient manner by eliminating a stagnation of the print job when a printer is waiting for the manual feeding of paper during a special print job. See column

3, lines 26 through column 4, line 5. Thus, Ban's system only judges whether a print based on a print job is the target of automatic paper feeding or manual paper feeding.

Ban fails to teach, *inter alia*, judging whether a print based on the order information is a target of automatic printing, for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is not necessary, or a manual printing, for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is not necessary, in accordance with the content of the order information, as recited in claims 1 and 9.

Ban also fails to teach, *inter alia*, judgment means for judging whether a print based on the order information is a target of automatic printing, for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is not necessary, or manual printing, for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is necessary, in accordance with the content of the order information, as recited in claim 5.

Ban fails to teach, *inter alia*, judging whether a print is a target of automatic printing, for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is not necessary, or a manual printing, for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is necessary, based on the order information, as recited in claims 13 and 15.

Finally, Ban fails to teach, *inter alia*, judgment means for judging whether a print is a target of automatic printing, for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is not necessary or manual printing, for which the confirmation of the content of the order information by an operator is necessary, based on the order information as recited in claims 14 and 16.

In view of the above, applicant respectfully submits that Ban fails to teach each and every feature of independent claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 through 16 as required. Further, dependent claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12 and 18-25 are likewise distinguishable for the above reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-16 and 18-25 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 09/686,789

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

Michael K. Mutter, #29,680

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MKM/CJB:cb
2091-0221P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment(s)